

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 3001

MUNICH PLEASE PASS FSO JOSEPH PRESEL

USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IOP, IBS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA "EXPOSE" OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. IZVESTIYA MARCH 4
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CARRIES A TWO-PART "EXPOSE" OF CIA OPERATIONS IN MOSCOW.
PART ONE TAKES THE FORM OF AN OPEN LETTER FROM SOVIET
DR. S.L. LIPAVSKIY IN WHICH LIPAVSKIY DETAILS HIS
ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CIA, INCLUDING FORMER
EMBASSY OFFICER MELVIN LEVITSKY AND CURRENT EMBASSY
OFFICER (PRESENTLY ON LEAVE IN WESTERN EUROPE) JOSEPH
PRESEL. IN THE COURSE OF HIS STORY, LIPAVSKIY SMEARS

DEPARTED JEWISH ACTIVISTS RUBIN, AZBEL, AND LERNER, AND MENTIONS YURIY ORLOV AND ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY. DECLARING THAT ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM AND THE SOVIET STATE ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, HE CONCLUDES BY RENOUNCING THE CIA AND THE SOVIET TRAITORS IT HAS EXPLOITED. PART TWO IS AN EPILOGUE TO THE LIPAVSKIY LETTER, WRITTEN BY D. MOREV AND K. YARILOV, WHICH PROVIDES FULLER DETAILS TO LIPAVSKIY'S ACCOUNT. THE EPILOGUE DWELLS UPON THE ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF LEVITSKY AND PRESEL; DETAILS THE CIA INSTRUCTIONS LIPAVSKIY WAS ALLEGEDLY GIVEN; MENTIONS SENATOR JACKSON AND CONGRESSMAN DRINAN AND FASCEL AS SPECIAL GUARDIANS OF LIPAVSKIY; SMEARS FORMER U.S. CORRESPONDENTS FRIENDLY (NEWSWEEK) AND KRIMSKY (AP); AND NOTES THAT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ABOUT OTHER U.S. DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW COULD BE CITED. THIS "EXPOSE" SEEMS INTENDED TO CONVINCE PUBLIC THAT U.S.G. INTEREST IN SOVIET DISSIDENTS IS A COVER FOR INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS NOT MENTIONED, NOR IS SAKHAROV. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. LIPAVSKIY'S OPEN LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET, THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE UN, TAKES THE FORM OF A PUBLIC CONFESSION, ALONG THE LINES OF THE LETTER WRITTEN TO THE SOVIET WEEKLY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA BY ALEKSANDR PETROV-AGATOV IN EARLY FEBRUARY. LIPAVSKIY RELATES THAT HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH JEWISH REFUSEES, LED BY D. AZBEL, A. LERNER, AND V. RUBIN, IN 1972, AND BECAME SOMETHING OF A SECRETARY TO RUBIN (WHO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ISRAEL). HE THEREFORE KNEW ALL THE PLANS OF THIS GROUP, WHICH HAD "A SINGLE PLATFORM AND A SINGLE LEADER, AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN ANTI-SOVIET ORGANIZATION".

3. ACCORDING TO LIPAVSKIY, IN 1972 HE LEARNED THAT THE GROUP WAS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH PERSONNEL OF SEVERAL FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ACCREDITED IN MOSCOW. IN PARTICULAR, THE CLOSEST CONTACTS WERE WITH U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL MELVIN LEBITSKY AND JOSEPH PRESEL AND WITH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS PETER OSNOS (PRESENTLY WASHINGTON POST BUREAU CHIEF HERE), ALFRED FREINDLY (FORMERLY NEWSWEEK BUREAU CHIEF) AND SEVERAL OTHERS.

4. LIPAVSKIY SAYS THAT RUBIN AND THE OTHERS INITIALLY TRIED TO SLANDER THE SOVIET UNION BY ARTIFICIALLY CREATING NOISE ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN THE USSR. THEY DECEIVED MANY JEWISH FAMILIES IN AN

ATTEMPT TO BOOST JEWISH EMIGRATION AND THEREBY DAMAGE THE SOVIET SYSTEM. THEY ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS, TO WHICH THEY INVITED PROMINENT WESTERN SCIENTISTS.

5. WHEN THIS APPROACH FAILED, RUBIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES DECIDED TO UNITE WITH THE SO-CALLED HELSINKI OBSERVATION GROUP HEADED BY YU. ORLOV. FIRST RUBIN JOINED, THEN A. SHCHARANSKIY. IN ORDER TO INCREASE TENSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR, LERNER DECIDED TO ORGANIZE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET DEFENSE INDUSTRY WITH THE AIM OF DISRUPTING THE SALE OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY TO THE USSR. RUBIN EMIGRATED, AND COMMUNICATED WITH LERNER THROUGH OSNOS. LERNER ASSIGNED TO SHCHARANSKIY AND OTHERS THE TASK OF GATHERING INFORMATION, AS URGED BY RUBIN, EVEN THOUGH SOME PROTESTED THAT THIS WAS PLAINLY ESPIONAGE. INDEED, IT WAS ALWAYS CLEAR THAT THE GROUP CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS ASSISTING THE CIA AND ALSO SUPPORTING THE JACKSON AMENDMENT.

6. LIPAVSKIY CONTINUES THAT HE MET MELVIN LEVITSKY IN 1974, AT THE APARTMENT OF V. RUBIN. THE LATTER ALLEGEDLY TOLD LIPAVSKIY THAT LEVITSKY WAS A CIA AGENT INTERESTED IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC MATTERS. LIPAVSKIY BACKED OFF UPON LEARNING THIS, BUT WAS PRESSURED BY D. AZBEL (THEN ABROAD) TO COOPERATE WITH LEVITSKY. THIS COOPERATION TURNED OUT TO INVOLVE RECRUITING FOR THE CIA ONE OF THE LEADERS OF A SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN THE MOSCOW SUBURBS WHO WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF LIPAVSKIY'S. THE AIM WAS TO OBTAIN IMPORTANT DEFENSE INFORMATION. IT BECAME CLEAR FROM LEVITSKY'S INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE AMERICANS ALREADY CONSIDERED LIPAVSKIY THEIR AGENT.

7. LIPAVSKIY DIDN'T LIKE THIS, AND TRIED TO LIMIT HIS CONTACT WITH U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO THE QUESTION OF HIS EXIT VISA BUT FAILED. HIS CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIA TOOK "A DRAMATIC TURN", PARTICULARLY WHEN ANOTHER U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER, JOSPEH PRESEL, ANNOUNCED HE HAD ARRIVED IN THE USSR TO "SHAKE ITS FOUNDATIONS" AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH "DISSIDENTS".

8. IN THE COURSE OF SYSTEMATIC CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE, LIPAVSKIY BEGAN TO SEE THE LIGHT:

--ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM AND THE SOVIET STATE CONSCIOUSLY EXPLOIT THE SO-CALLED QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE BENEFIT OF IMPERIALISM AND WORLD REACTION;

--THE SELF-PROCLAIMED FIGHTERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE USSR ARE ACTUALLY ADVENTURISTS AND MONEY-GRUBBERS
WHOSE ACTIVITIES BRING ONLY HARM TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE;

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--SOVIET JEWS ARE BEST OFF IN THE USSR, NOT ABROAD;

--HE HENCE FORTH WILL DEVOTE HIMSELF TO UNCOVERING
THE HOSTILE ACTIVITIES OF THE RENEGADES AND TRAITORS OF
THEIR HOMELAND, WHO HAVE SOLD OUT TO THE CIA.

9. HIS LETTER ENDS WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT HE ADDRESSED
A COPY TO THE U.S. CONGRESS TO REQUEST IT AGAIN TO IN-
VESTIGATE THE CIA WHICH "MISINFORMS ITS GOVERNMENT" AND
ENGAGES IN THE ABOVE EVIL ACTIVITIES. HE ADDRESSED
ANOTHER COPY TO THE UN TO ASK THAT THE UN NOT DECEIVE
ITSELF BY CONFUSING JUST PUNISHMENT OF TRAITORS WITH
THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE SUPREME SOVIET IS THE
ADDRESSEE BECAUSE LIPAVSKIY WANTS TO MEET HIS RESPON-
SIBILITIES AS A SOVIET CITIZEN BY TELLING HIS STORY AND
ALSO BY WITHDRAWING HIS REQUEST FOR AN EMMIGRANT VISA
TO ISRAEL "BECAUSE I CONSIDER THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS
THE ONLY HOMELAND FOR ME".

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

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10. THE LENGTHY EPILOGUE (FOUR FULL COLUMNS ON IZVESTIYA'S BACK PAGE) FLESHES OUT LIPAVSKIY'S LETTER WITH DETAILS ABOUT THE CIA INSTRUCTIONS HE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED, INCLUDING PHOTO REPRODUCTIONS OF A CLANDESTINE CONTAINER, WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS, AND A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF A LETTER DROP. HIGHLIGHTS:

--LIPAVSKIY BECAME INVOLVED WITH RUBIN AND THE OTHERS THROUGH A PATIENT NAMED EDUARD SHIFRIN. WHEN HE
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EMIGRATED, SHIFRIN INTRODUCED LIPAVSKIY TO T. GAL'PERINA, WHO IN TURN BROUGHT HIM INTO THE CIRCLE OF "FIGHTERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS";

--AS A DOCTOR, LIPAVSKIY LOOKED AFTER RUBIN AND OTHERS DURING A HUNGER STRIKE WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE BOGUS;

--MEALS AT RUBIN'S APARTMENT WERE ESSENTIALLY GATHERINGS FOR WORKING OUT ANTI-SOVIET ACTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS; AT ONE SUCH OCCASION, (FORMER) U.S. EMBASSY VICE CONSUL ALYNN NATHANSON WAS PHYSICALLY ATTACKED BY THE JEALOUS WIFE OF ONE V. SLEPAK, WHO HAD MADE AMOROUS ADVANCES TOWARD NATHANSON (THE AUTHORS ADD THAT A DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION REGARDING THIS INCIDENT FOR SOME REASON WAS NEVER MADE. EMBASSY NOTE: SLEPAK IS, OF COURSE, THE JEWISH ACTIVIST TO WHOM THEN PRESIDENTIAL-CANDIDATE CARTER SENT A TELEGRAM);

--AZBEL AND OTHERS TOLD LIPAVSKIY THAT THEIR PLATFORM WAS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND INDEED SENATOR JACKSON, JOINED BY CONGRESSMEN DRINAN AND FASCEL, BECAME "PERSONAL GUARDIANS" OF LIPAVSKIY;

--"AMERICAN SPY" MELVIN LEBITSKY ENLISTED LIPAVSKIY AS A CIA AGENT AND GAVE THE LATTER A CIA RECRUITMENT LETTER CONTAINING INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS; LEVITSKY NOW WORKS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS AN EXPERT IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, "AND IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO GUESS THE NATURE OF HIS CURRENT FUNCTIONS;"

--FIRST SECRETARY JOSEPH PRESEL PRESENTLY OCCUPIES LEVITSKY'S MOSCOW POST; PRESEL HIMSELF SAYS HE IS A SPECIALIST IN "HUMAN RIGHTS" AND HAD "A SPECIAL MISSION" IN THE USSR;

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--AFTER QUOTING EXTENSIVELY FROM LIPAVSKIY'S "CIA INSTRUCTIONS", THE AUTHORS NOTE THAT THEY COULD SITE "OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF 'DIPLOMATS' OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE USSR" WHO ARE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH GATHERING ESPIONAGE INFORMATION AND RECRUITING AGENTS FROM AMONG THE "DISSIDENTS";

--THE AUTHORS THEN TURN TO U.S. CORRESPONDENTS, CHARACTERIZING FORMER NEWSWEEK BUREAU CHIEF FRIENDLY AS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT AND FORMER AP STAFFER GEORGE KRIMSKY AS HAVING SYSTEMATICALLY ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL CURRENCY OPERATIONS AND AS HAVING CONNECTIONS WITH THE CIA.

11. MOREV AND YARILOV CONCLUDE THEIR PART OF THE EXERCISE BY CLAIMING THAT THE JOURNALISM PRACTICED BY FRIENDLY AND KRIMSKY CONTRADICTS THE STANDARDS OF THE PROFESSION AS WELL AS THE PROVISIONS OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT, AND DECIVES WESTERN READERS HUNGRY FOR OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION. AS FOR THE THEME, EXAGGERATED AT PRESENT IN THE WEST, OF THE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS, "THE FOLLOWING CAN BE ANNOUNCED WITH ALL CERTAINTY: THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED AS BEFORE TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT AND LETTER F THE CSCE FINAL ACT SIGNED IN HELSINKI. WE AWAIT THE SAME FROM OUR WESTERN ARTNERS." END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

12. COMMENT. LIPAVSKIY'S LETTER SEEMS CALCULATED TO DISRUPT THE TIES BETWEEN SOVIET DISSIDENTS ON THE ONE HAND, THE U.S. (AND WESTERN) DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS ON THE OTHER. A PRIME AIM IS CLEARLY TO CONVINCE THE PUBLIC THAT U.S.G. INTEREST IN SOVIET DISSIDENTS IS A COVER FOR INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS. IT THUS FOLLOWS AND EXPANDS UPON THE PATTERN OF THE PETROV-AGATOV LETTER PUBLISHED IN LETERATURNAYA GAZETA ON FEBRUARY 2. WHAT IS NEW, OF COURSE,

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ARE THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE CIA AND INDIVIDUAL EMBASSY OFFICERS. (PRESEL, NOW IN MUNICH, IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO MOSCOW MARCH 13.) UNLIKE LITGAZ, IZVESTIYA IS AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER; AND THE NEWSPAPER IN EFFECT ENDORSES THE CONTENT OF LIPAVSKIY'S LETTER BY RUNNING A SUPPLEMENTAL "EPILOGUE". OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE LETTER AND EPILOGUE UPON THE EMBASSY AND U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS GENERALLY FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. TOON

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